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## Support for Teitia

Mother rallies to provide autistic  
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## Basic income in Niagara

Government may look into piloting a  
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## Setting sail for a new shipping season



ALLAN BENNETT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne town crier Thomas Pekar welcomes people to Monday's Top Hat Ceremony, including Capt. Josh Penney and chief engineer Gerald Flynn from the tugboat Victorious, with the barge John J. Carrick. See story on page 2.

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# UPFRONT

## Smooth sailing to start shipping season

ALLAN BENNER  
Postmedia Network

Following two severe winters, it's smooth sailing on local waterways this spring.

"During our last two openings, ice was a topic as we coped with the aftermath of frigid winters," said St. Lawrence Seaway general manager of engineering Luc Boisclair.

"In contrast, we closed the 2015 navigation season ice-free. Today we're ready to open with clear sailing on the horizon."

Boisclair joined more than 200 people at Lake 8 Park in Port Colborne Monday for the city's Top Hat Ceremony, officially launching the 2016 shipping season and welcoming the first vessels to enter the Welland Canal from Lake Erie — the tugboat Victorious with the barge John J. Carrick under the command of Capt. Josh Penney and chief engineer Gerald Flynn.

The Top Hat Ceremony is part of marine tradition for which the captains of the first upbound and downbound ships of the season are given the headwear to don as they pass through the waterway.

It was the first top hat for Penney, who has served as captain for two years. The vessels under his command were partially loaded with asphalt, bound for Oshawa.

"We've had some good weather for just starting out (the season)," he said. "There's no ice, and that's a great thing."

Penney said the impact the seaway has can be felt across Canada.

He said about 60 per cent



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne deputy mayor Bea Kenny stretches to place a top hat on Capt. Josh Penney's head, while chief engineer Gerald Flynn looks on. The city's Top Hat Ceremony welcomes the Welland Canal's first downbound vessel of the season, which Monday was the tugboat Victorious, with the barge John J. Carrick.

of his crew is from Newfoundland, himself included, while other workers aboard the ship come from across the country.

"The Great Lakes provide jobs all across Canada, it's not just southern Ontario," he said. "I'm sure a lot of you know there's a long tradition of Newfoundlanders sailing on the Great Lakes on the lake boats."

For the first time this year, the city's fair trade committee

served a pancake breakfast to guests, including about 300 pancakes plus sausages and maple syrup.

McAsphalt Marine operations manager James Gichard said it was the second time his Hamilton-based company has received the top hat from the City of Port Colborne.

"The Welland Canal is a critical artery and highway in that McAsphalt Marine relies on heavily throughout the navigation season," he

said. "Having the ability to pit-stop here at Lock 8 for these vital services and supplies is crucial not only to our vessels but to all other domestic fleets as well."

Port Colborne deputy mayor Bea Kenny stressed the city's economic ties to the waterway.

"Just look at the number of ships that were docked here this past winter for repair," she said, referring to local industries that have been busy as a

## CANAL SAFETY STRESSED

St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. is reminding residents to stay away from the canal after two people were recently rescued from its frigid water.

At Port Colborne's Top Hat Ceremony, Monday, seaway general manager of engineering Luc Boisclair referred to two incidents during which people walking dogs along the canal were rescued after trying to save their pets that had gone into the water.

On Feb. 22 in Dain City, a woman was rescued while

trying to save her dog, and on Friday emergency workers rescued a man in Port Colborne.

"We unfortunately had our share of incidents involving residents in our canal waters," Boisclair said. "I need to remind everyone to be careful near the canal, and always respect the no trespassing signs."

He said beside the water temperature, there are strong currents out there that can transform any swimming into a tragic consequence event.

result of the marine industry.

She also celebrated the completion of repairs to Bridge 19 that was closed to vehicular traffic throughout the fall and winter after being damaged by a passing vessel.

Regional Chair Alan Cassin said he's looking for 2016 being a very successful season on the canal.

"The canal is 28 miles of waterway of waterway that helps us not only in a commercial sense, but also in a recreational sense, too," he said.

"It's something that we've all come to rely on. It's an important route for traffic and it has been for 187 years.

"The economic benefits from the canal to our region are significant ... The tourism aspect is becoming more and more significant as we see more and more commercial and recreational ships using the canal."

Boisclair said the past shipping season ended with having moved a little more than 36 million tonnes of cargo, about eight per cent less than a year earlier.

(But) with grain volumes well above the five-year average, the seaway once again proved to be important to farmer shipping crops to markets at home and overseas," he said. "The ongoing investment in new vessels by a variety of seaway carriers underscores our customer's faith in the future of the waterway."

Boisclair said the seaway corporation plans to invest \$100 million on asset renewal this year.

"Over \$65 million of that budget is dedicated to the Welland Canal, fostering many regional economic spinoff benefits," he said.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Service dog would aid autistic girl

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

Randi-Lee Bowslaugh knew her daughter needed help.

Although Teitia is a talkative youngster and will "absolutely chat your ear off," the nine-year-old Welland girl has difficulty coping with some social interactions.

"A big thing for her is anxiety," her mom says. "She doesn't like groups of people or loud noises."

But the most troubling aspect of Teitia's behaviour is a tendency to wander off

"She's a high time wanderer. She's a runner," Bowslaugh says. "If she is in an over-stimulated, over-sensory mode, she'll run off because she needs to get out of the situation. She'll just run."

Bowslaugh had suspected that Teitia may have autism, but she couldn't be certain. Last March, her suspicions were confirmed by doctors. Girls, Bowslaugh says, are often harder to diagnose than boys because they exhibit different symptoms.

"It took us quite some time to get to the diagnosis, but it was super helpful when we did," she says.

\*The earlier you can get diagnosed the better it is for (children with autism) to get help.\*

Wait lists for autism treatment programs in Niagara can be four years, or longer.

Prior to the diagnosis, Bowslaugh and her family didn't know what they could do to help Teitia. But now they do.

Bowslaugh has researched



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Randi-Lee Bowslaugh and her daughter Teitia are pictured in their Welland home. Fundraising efforts for Teitia are aimed at getting the nine-year-old autistic girl a service dog.

service dogs and feels that Teitla would benefit greatly from a furry companion trained to help her.

Specially trained dogs can help Teltia cope with her anxiety, too.

"When she's in those social situations when she starts to feel anxious, she has the dog with her. She has that companion and that friend right there with her to help her out," her mom says.

"They're really amazing. Because they're trained for that person, they can actually recognize when that person is having a meltdown or about to."

Because it's a service dog, Teitia won't need to be separated from it when she attends class at Ross School.

But Bowslaugh says her family is facing a big barrier to getting Teltia a fully trained service dog — they cost about \$16,000, and that's far more than the family can afford to spend.

Although there are programs to provide service dogs to people who need them, those programs have waiting lists. Bowslaugh doesn't want to wait any longer.

Bowslaugh says people "were more than happy to get on hoard" and help her raise the money needed.

She recently spoke to Blayne Bonfoco from Modern Vision MMA at Seaway Mall, where Teitla has learned martial arts for four years.

Bonfoco helped organize an Easter Shop Fundraiser

that brought seven vendors together to take part in a special market that was held last Saturday.

Vendors donated a portion of proceeds from sales to Bowslaugh to help cover the cost of paying for a service dog for Teitia.

The family has also set up a Go Fund Me account at [www.gofundme.com/teitia](http://www.gofundme.com/teitia), although it has not been very effective.

Only two people have donated for a total of \$100 in the past two months.

"Getting the word out there is hard," Bowslaugh says.

The family is also organizing a walk-a-thon taking place in June, "and that's kind of our super big fundraiser." Bowslaugh says Teitia is excited about the idea of having a dog.

"She wants it like yesterday. She's very excited, especially at the prospect of the dog being able to go with her places."

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# Nicholson's bill on the right track

You can't blame anyone for being discouraged by the state of politics today.

More often than not, important issues are reduced to petty squabbling between partisans who attack the other side simply because it's the other side. The actual merit of policy ideas gets shuffled to the back burners, while politicians compete to see who can come up with the best soundbite.

It's exhausting, and serves no one's interest as the politicians themselves.

So it was not without a feeling that bordered on joy that I read last week that Niagara Falls Conservative MP Rob Nicholson's private member's bill calling for a national dementia strategy was seconded by a member of the Liberal government.

That's right, folks: a Tory and a Liberal, natural enemies in the wild, are actually working together on something important.

There are more than 700,000 Canadians living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. And that number is only going to grow. Last year marked a critical milestone in the annals of Canadian life. For the first time, there were more Canadians over the age of 65 than there were under the age of 14.

That doesn't just mean there are more Canadians enjoying the seniors discount at the movie theatre. It means the nature of health



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care is changing rapidly.

As we live longer, the more complex medical care can be. Our bodies will, at some point or another, succumb to the pressures of time. Dementia is, tragically, among those pressures.

The number of Canadians affected by dementia is predicted to rise to 1.4 million over the next 15 years.

Current estimates by Alzheimer Society of Canada peg the costs of dementia in Canada—direct medical costs and indirect expenses such as lost income—at more than \$35 billion annually. By the year 2040, the figure is expected to rise to more than \$293 billion a year.

Yes, that's billion. With a B.

Finding ways to better help those with dementia and their families while controlling costs is critical. Given how quickly things are changing, Bill C-293 is as timely as it is important.

The bill calls for a national strategy that will foster greater co-operation between provinces on the issue, and lead to less duplication of treatment strategies and research.

Still, the bill faces unavoidable hurdles.

First, it's a private member's bill, which are not usually part of a government's overall agenda.

Traditionally, private member bills don't get very far, even when they are floated by members of the governing party. When they are presented by members of the opposition they are even less likely to make it into law.

Nicholson, whose father died from Alzheimer's in 1997, would have stood a much better chance of getting the bill passed had he introduced it during his days as a Conservative cabinet minister, when Stephen Harper's party had a majority in the House of Commons.

Still, Nicholson does have support of at least one Liberal member, Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant, which in theory gives the bill a better chance of survival.

While we're on this point, the bill is also a test of the Liberals' promise to conduct politics differently.

They made a big deal about not emulating the worst of the Conservatives' cut-throat, cut-away or the highway approach to governing. In Bill C-293, we have a worthy bill brought forward by a Tory.

There aren't any cogent counterarguments to it, and it fits nicely within the broader framework of the Liberal health-care agenda.

The Liberals will have some explaining to do

if they ultimately reject it.

Even if the bill can get through, it faces the labyrinth that is the Canadian health-care system.

Although Ottawa funds health care in Canada, administration and execution of it happens at the provincial level. So while the symbolism of a national strategy is important and can provide guidance, it ultimately cannot on its own harmonize treatment from province to province or make a provincial government do something it doesn't want to.

We've seen this with the national strategy on mental health, written in 2012, that both the previous government and this one have said will eventually be fully implemented. Even if it is, its impact will be limited by the design of the health-care system.

What Canada ultimately needs is a revamped health accord between the provinces, territories and Ottawa. The government refused in 2014 after the Tory government refused to renegotiate, and the status quo has limped on ever since.

The Liberals made some noises about revamping the accord during the election, if they do, they ought to allow a mechanism for a national strategy like the one Nicholson proposes, to have actual teeth.

Otherwise, we'll be left with important and well-intentioned bills that will never be able to live up to their potential.

# Job creation requires leaders to come together

The innovations of progressive business and community leaders have enabled Niagara to build a diverse economy that is built upon our region's strength.

They did what was necessary to survive the 2008/09 economy and in most cases have brought prosperity back to their corporations. The reality is that in the 21st century their efforts haven't always led to job creation.

Several organizations, including Niagara Workforce Planning Board, Niagara Community Observatory and many others, have been studying the topic of who are our job creators for several years. In all their research four sectors continue to come forward as our region's economic foundation: advance manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, health and wellness and agri-business. It is true that companies in each of these sectors are growing in Niagara due to several factors particularly the sheer tenacity of its leaders.

The question most citizens of Niagara are asking themselves is, where are the good-paying jobs in these sectors?

The job search website Indeed.com has been running a very interesting series of commercials



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late and one caught my attention. The commercial has a rather witty title, *How Rock 'N' Roll Works*, and it is part of a series of videos from the Howthe World Works campaign. Here is a link to the video: [www.indeed.com/how-the-world-works](http://www.indeed.com/how-the-world-works).

The video shows the journey of a guitar as it makes its way into the hands of a musician. The video identifies a handful of jobs related to rock and roll. It starts with the master carpenter who builds the guitar. Next it shows the electrical technician who outfits the guitar. Then it shows the finance manager who takes care of the manufacturing company's books. Then it shows the inventory supervisor in the stockroom handling the guitars. It ends with the guitar in the hands of a musician who eventually smashes it on stage and then the entire process starts again

in the commercial.

This Indeed campaign has several other videos that examine, for example, soccer, animation and a burger. The theme is clear and consistent. The jobs available are not just the primary work of a soccer player or digital animator or cook but also ancillary in nature. Again our citizens ask, where are these good paying ancillary jobs created in the sector?

The Conference Board of Canada has studied this problem and has confirmed that "a looming skills gap threatens Ontario's future." It surveyed more than 1,500 Ontario employers and discovered the following: 57 per cent of employers want employees with a two- or three-year college diploma in the areas of engineering/technology, business/finance/administration and computers/telecommunications; 44 per cent of employers want employees with a four-year degree in the fields of science/technology, business, health and social sciences; 41 per cent of employers want employees with trades certification in construction, technology and business/hospitality.

So here is Niagara's dilemma. Research findings demonstrate that indeed Niagara employers are in need of employees with particular skills, but the skills they need are not readily available

in abundance in our region.

So what do we do with this knowledge? The Conference Board wrote a detailed report titled *The Next for Skills Skills Work*. It demonstrates that if a collection of selfless leaders and organizations "come together, right now" we can solve this problem. This report outlines realistic actions stakeholders can take to fill the skills gap and here are just a few.

Employers need to "invest more in training and development for current and prospective employees and offer more workplace-based learning opportunities for students." Parents must "be attentive to labour market trends and incorporate this information into decisions about educational paths and career options." Educators "at the secondary and post-secondary levels should collect, and communicate to current and prospective students, information about employment and income prospects for graduates of specific programs and disciplines." Creating good-paying jobs in the Niagara job market is not going to be easy and there is no silver bullet that will save our region. It will take time and effort, but as Bob Marley once said, "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice."

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# WRCC lawsuit stalled

ALLAN BENNER  
Postmedia Network

Welland Mayor Frank Campion and the city have yet to formally respond to a lawsuit filed by former members of the Welland Recreational Canal Corp., months after the end of September deadline.

Nevertheless, Tom Bacolini, one of the plaintiffs who led the WRCC's board of directors before his resignation in November, said the lawsuit is proceeding.

"At this point we're still negotiating with our solicitor and their solicitor," Bacolini said.

A Statement of Claim was filed on behalf of the plaintiffs Sept. 8 at the Ontario Superior Court office in Hamilton, claiming dam-

ages for libel and slander amounting to \$2.8 million in total.

Although defendants are usually required to file a Statement of Defence within 20 days, Bacolini said the plaintiffs have yet to receive that document.

"That's right, because we haven't requested one at this time yet," Bacolini said. "We're still looking at other options."

But Bob Anderson, a Welland lawyer as well as one of the plaintiffs on the lawsuit, said the Statement of Claim is currently being held "in abeyance" until a few issues can be resolved such as obtaining funding for legal fees.

He said the plaintiffs are planning to meet with the

city's lawyers in the near future, during which he hopes to resolve the issue so the lawsuit can proceed.

For instance, the defendants' lawyers could provide the Statement of Defence directly to the plaintiffs, rather than work through their lawyer.

"We have to do something about it," Anderson said. "We have to put the pressure on them."

Neither Campion nor city staff will discuss the lawsuit. It's being dealt with as an in-camera issue by city council.

The lawsuit, which has not been proven in court, relates to statements allegedly made by Campion while introducing a proposed motion at a city council meeting on June 16, as well as statements made

by the mayor in subsequent newspaper articles.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit also include former board members Bob Wright, Vic Kersch, Deborah Zahra, and Roy Timms, as well as former executive director Stephen Fischer.

The board members resigned Nov. 24, citing frustration due to budget constraints. Fischer left the organization a day earlier.

Bacolini said an out-of-court settlement is not among the options being considered at this time.

"We're just working our thing through and seeing what we can do and where our next steps are," he said. "At this point, we're still in litigation. We're just biding our time. We have time to work on

that. We're still negotiating."

The plaintiffs have five years after filing the Statement of Claim to set a trial date, or the lawsuit may be dismissed by the court.

Lawyers representing the two sides of the lawsuit did not return phone calls.

ABenner@postmedia.com  
Twitter: @abenner1



POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO

Former Welland Recreational Canal Corp. chairman Tom Bacolini, left, and vice-chairman Bob Wright are two of the plaintiffs on a lawsuit filed against the mayor and city in September.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Niagara touted for basic income trial

CHERYL CLOCK  
Postmedia Network

Perhaps this Facebook post best expresses the reaction of poverty advocates to a suggestion that the province will pilot a basic income program somewhere in Ontario: Pick Niagara, Pick Niagara. Please. That comes from Nicki Inch, fund development manager at the YWCA Niagara.

She was reacting to news about a paragraph in the 2016 Ontario budget that suggests the government will look into piloting a basic income program to provide "more consistent and predictable support in the context of today's dynamic labour market."

Proponents have long suggested giving people a stable income that covers their basic needs would not only pull them out of poverty, but also reduce costs in other areas including health care and housing support.

At this point, details are few. Ontario's finance minister has been quoted as saying the government will look at it in the fall. And there might be a test community to pilot such a program.

Still, local poverty advocates are excited, even hopeful it might come to Niagara.

"If we can be one of the first communities, it will help move the area out of poverty faster."

Nicki Inch, of YWCA Niagara

Affordable housing is defined as rent that consumes no more than one-third of a family's income. And yet, the poor in Niagara face rent that is more than half of their income, she says. That leaves little left over for food, day care, utilities and other necessities of life.

A basic income would allow people the dignity of affording their own needs. "To live a little bit better than survival mode," she said.

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley would support a pilot project in Niagara, but said he isn't convinced a basic income is a solution to poverty.

"It's always good to look at what an alternative might look like," he said.

"I've not seen enough evidence one way or the other."

A decision on where to test such a program needs to be carefully considered, he said. There are other needy communities in Ontario.

"They will be looking objectively," he said.

Meanwhile, Welland MPP Cindy Forster said the government needs to share more details of its intentions.

Who would be eligible? How long would a test program run? How will success be measured?

"I support people having a living wage. People need to have enough money to have the basics in life. A safe home. A place to live. Enough money to feed their family."

"If you don't have a clean, safe place where you can go to every day, how do people go out and find a job?"

of numerous pilot projects, including a 1970s Canadian experiment in Dauphin, Man.

"Why don't we just get

on with it?" she said. "This is definitely a move in the right direction, but I do wonder why we just don't get on

with it as well. The evidence is there. We don't need more evidence," she said.

"The evidence is over-

whelming. And the need is overwhelming."

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## Man rescued from canal in Port Colborne

MICHELLE ALLENBERG  
Postmedia Network

A man was transferred to Welland General Hospital after being rescued from the Welland Canal in Port Colborne last Friday.

Emergency services responded after receiving a call from a woman around noon saying her dog was in the water. While waiting for emergency personnel to arrive the woman's partner chose to jump into the water to save the dog.

Due to the steep walls of the canal the man was unable to get himself out of the cold water.

Upon arrival emergency personnel ended the water wearing water gear to rescue the man.

Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright said they secured the man with a rope and held onto him until additional help arrived to extract him from the water.

"We received confusing information of where he was in the water," Cartwright said.

The man was found in the canal near the Robin Hood Mill adjacent to the Friendship Trail.

He is being treated for non life-threatening injuries.



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A man dove into the Welland Canal near Robin Hood Flour Mill in Port Colborne last Friday afternoon to rescue his dog.

Welland emergency services also responded to the call.

Niagara Regional Police said in a press release that it appears the dog may have died due to the cold water. The dog has not been located. Welland District Humane Society executive director John Greer said Humane Society officers would conduct a search for the dog.

"Dogs are pretty good at padding and finding where they can

get out," Greer said.

If anyone spots a stray dog they can contact the humane society via phone at 905-735-1552.

NRP stressed that water is still near the freezing mark and anyone entering the water is risking their life.

People should take caution near any body of water and keep their pets leashed at all times.

[mallenber@postmedia.com](mailto:mallenber@postmedia.com)

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Seniors drug costs ailing NDP

KARENIA WALTER  
Postmedia Network

Cindy Forster was on a tour of older adult and wellness centres last week urging seniors to sign a petition to stop hikes to prescription drug costs.

The NDP MPP for Welland riding, which includes part of south St. Catharines, said many people aren't aware of changes announced in the Ontario budget for seniors' drug plans.

"For some people, higher income seniors, it may not be an issue, but for many seniors who are struggling, it could mean the difference of whether I'm going to pay groceries this week or pay an extra \$70 to get my prescription filled," For-

ster last week after speaking to members of the Niagara chapter of CARP at Ina Grafton Gage Village in St. Catharines.

It was Forster's second stop of the day on the issue, having previously spoken at the Dunlop Centre for Older Adults in St. Catharines.

Forster told the group of about 50 people at Ina Grafton that the budget was released in February without consultation with seniors on the issue of drug costs.

The changes to the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan increase a senior's annual deductible to \$170 plus \$2 per prescription co-pay, up from \$100.

They don't have to pay a

deductible if they make less than \$19,300.

That threshold was increased by the Liberals from \$16,106 to allow more seniors to qualify for free prescriptions.

But Forster spoke against the increased deductible and said the \$19,300 threshold is too low and more seniors should be eligible.

"Many will find it impossible to pay their prescription costs," she said.

Forster said CARP surveyed its members across province and 10 per cent said they often don't fill

their prescriptions because they don't have enough money to do so.

The median senior income across province for a single female is \$26,900, for men is \$30,900 and for couples is \$56,200, she said.

Forster said one in three Ontario seniors require 10 or more prescriptions to stay healthy and out of hospital.

"The government is now saying in their budget that starting Aug. 1, the cost of your drugs will nearly double for most seniors with no consultation and no warning."



Welland MPP Cindy Forster

just above the threshold and dependent on multiple prescription drugs.

Forster said since the change is not law yet she encouraged seniors to sign a petition and contact their MPPs.

About 50,000 seniors across the province have signed the petition, she said after the talk.

"If enough people are vocal, the government will have to revisit it and it should."

St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley could not be reached immediately for comment.

kwalter@postmedia.com  
Twitter: @karenia\_standard



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# Bridge reopening welcome news in Port Colborne

**MICHELLE ALLENBERG**  
Postmedia Network

Bridge 19 on Main Street in Port Colborne reopened last Friday after being closed since Sept. 30.

The Lena J ship collided with the bridge causing major structural damage. Steel beams needed to be replaced for the bridge to be operable.

Many owners of local businesses near the bridge were happy to hear it was reopening.

Jamal Mills-Alexander, owner of Absa-Fashion-

Lutely which is located near the bridge on Main Street, said the closure affected traffic — she noticed less traffic.

Mills-Alexander said her business wasn't impacted by the closure though. "I've been lucky with my customers," she said, adding that if she was in her first year of business, rather than her third year, she might have lost a lot of business.

"I was worried it was going to affect me," Mills-Alexander said.

As for the bridge reopening she said she hopes it goes well and she can't really

complain.

Sean Lacroix, part owner of Primos Restaurant located near the bridge, said he didn't feel the impact of the closure.

He said while it was a "pain in the butt for driving," his regular customers still came to the restaurant.

"It was closed a long time, I'm glad it didn't happen during Canal Days," Lacroix said.

The bridge closure didn't leave everyone feeling alright though.

Ward 3 councillor Frank Danch said the closure has

"just been awful."

"I know everyone wants to park out front (of the stores), but people have to walk," he said.

Danch said the whole thing was "handled poorly." He said there were many businesses affected, including Tim Hortons, from whom he received many calls.

It has taken about six months to fix the bridge and Danch said he is unhappy, "it's taken so long."

He added that traffic last fall was "horrific" and usually the city has a few months where the public can use all



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Jamal Mills-Alexander owner of Absa-Fashion-Lutely on Main Street near bridge 19 in Port Colborne said her business wasn't affected at all during the construction of the bridge, but she's happy it is reopening.

three bridges.

The bridge was initially set to reopen at 4 p.m., but didn't open until after 5 p.m.

The Welland Canal opened on Monday.

mallenber@postmedia.com

## Kenny headed to regional council for Mayor Maloney

**FRANK KEMAN**  
Postmedia Network

Bea Kenny is headed to regional council in John Maloney's place while the Port Colborne mayor recovers from a mild stroke.

At the Feb. 22 meeting of Port Colborne city council it was announced that Maloney would be away for about six weeks for health reasons.

According to a report brought to council last Monday, Maloney informed the city on Feb. 29 that "no physician has identified a firm return date to me."

\*Notwithstanding, I person-

ally do not feel that I will be able to return by April 1st. Accordingly, you may wish to fill this interim vacancy until the situation improves."

Councillors agreed that Kenny, a Ward 3 councillor and currently deputy mayor, fill Maloney's absence at the upper-tier municipality.

The report said the Municipal Act permits a municipal council to appoint another member to be an alternate member of the upper-tier council in the event that the member is absent more than one month.

Kenny will be expected to attend both regional council meetings as well as meetings for the seven committees that Maloney is a member of, plus Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board of directors meetings and NPCA Cave Springs management plan steering committee meetings.

During Monday's meeting of council, Kenny said in her mayor's report that Maloney is doing well with his recovery.

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**Age Groups:** 3-4, 5-6, 7-9. Prizes awarded in each age group.

**Return entries to:** Seaway Mall Customer Service by 5:30pm on March 30, 2016.

**Winner will be announce April 1, 2016.**

Artist Name:

Age:

Please include contact information on back; Name and Phone Number.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Slump, renewal lead to retirements

DON FRASER

Postmedia Network

While a commodities slump has hit many ship carriers hard, Algoma Central Corp. is still well above water.

Nonetheless, the downturn is helping to speed up the retirement of five bulk freighters.

That move is also being pushed along by new, highly fuel-efficient Equinox Class ships that are part of an Algoma fleet renewal.

Those state-of-the-art Equinox vessels are being built at Jiangsu Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Co. in China.

Some of this is in anticipation of those new ships coming," Wayne Smith, commercial senior vice-president of the St. Catharines company, said recently.

"We have orders for seven more," said Smith, "with two expected next year and the other five mostly arriving in early 2018."

Those new ships are part of an ambitious fleet renewal, with Algoma having invested

about \$450 million in the recent phase of its program.

"Some of the retirements are planned, but ... moved up because of the weak market," he said.

"But it really has been a perfect storm with commodities," said Smith pointing, for example, to plunging coal and iron ore prices and a resulting big drop in cargo volumes along the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway.

"Some of this is cyclical phenomenon ... but what's happening overall with commodities is a concern."

Smith said a very-mild winter has also reduced demand for road salt the company's ships normally move from Lake Huron.

The grain crop in Canada was decent last year, but down from record levels a few years ago, he said. Two domestic major steel producers are also in bankruptcy protection and restructuring — U.S. Steel Canada and Essar Steel Algoma Inc., a subsidiary of India-based global conglomerate Essar Steel.

Smith said there are still bright lights on the horizon.

"It's a good sign the North American economy is doing reasonably well; automotive sales are high, housing starts are increasing," he said, adding the recovery from the Great Recession of 2008-09 has been very slow.

Construction materials and aggregates are showing strength and should bode well for shipping demand, he said, and "we expect that trend to continue this year."

Algoma remains profitable through the commodities turbulence. "Not where we'd like to be, but still we eked out a



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Two ships are pictured recently in the dry docks at Port Weller. One is the bulkier Algoma Guardian and the other the tanker Algora, the latter which is being retired.

profit," Smith said.

Another factor relating to shipping retirements is the poor market for scrap metal — in particular scrap steel — in ship-recycling yards. One of those is in Port Colborne and others are international.

"So it's difficult at this time to be able to figure out how and when to scrap the ships," said Smith.

That means vessels slated for retirement by Algoma and other companies may stay berthed until demand for

scrap improves.

"We've kept plugging along," Smith said. "And we hope the industry will continue to improve."

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# Annual President's Awards Gala

## March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Port Colborne – Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the nominees for the 2016 President's Awards Gala!

Thank you to all who submitted nominations, and congratulations to those who have been recognized. The Gala is taking place on Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Italian Hall, and we hope you can join us Doors open at 5:00 PM, with Dinner at 6:00 and presentation to follow. Limited space remains, so order your tickets today! Tickets are \$45 each, \$65 for 2 or \$320 for a table of 8. Contact the office at 905-834-9765 or email [katie@pcwcchamber.com](mailto:katie@pcwcchamber.com) to book now.

*Enjoy a night out celebrating the best of the best in Port Colborne and Wainfleet!*

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



**Aubrey Foley**

"Do at least one good deed a day" is Aubrey's philosophy, and because he has been realizing this approach for decades, he has become a well-known community member that is recognized for his generosity and youthful exuberance. His commitment to our community is second to none. He quietly dedicates his time, efforts and money to those in need and expects nothing in return. He co-runs the breakfast club at a local school, formed "Bears for Bikes" and runs the "Broken Spoke". Through this initiative, Aubrey refurbished bicycles for those in need in the community, and has built a network with local merchants and charity organizations that help deliver bicycles to third world countries such as Cuba, Haiti and Africa.



**Cheryl MacMillan**

A true ambassador of Port Colborne, Cheryl loves the community and is rarely seen without a smile and cheery disposition. Her dedication is unmatched, and she is committed to an extensive list of community initiatives. She has experience sitting as chair on the museum and library board, volunteering at Anabella's Tea Room, McKay Public School and as a soccer coach, directing the festival of arts and leading the choir. She is a music teacher and was the first female president of Port Colborne Scouting. Cheryl would go as far to say that her retirement, Cheryl keeps busy in the community, and enjoys daily walks through the neighbourhood - picking up any litter she sees on her path to make Port Colborne more beautiful.



**Travis Haycock**

Dedicated to the Port Colborne and generous with his time, Travis strives to better his community through volunteer work in several areas throughout Port Colborne. He can often be found at the Sunday morning breakfasts at the Port Carro Beach Out Food Centre, or behind the till at Ten Thousand Villages- one of Port Colborne's staple downtown businesses. His dependability, intelligence and willingness to help wherever possible really make Travis stand out from many people his age. On top of attending school at Brock University and his other volunteer work, he also is involved in the East Village Community, where he promotes the initiative on social media and dedicates time to enhancing that area of the city.

### YOUTH CITIZEN



**Brandee Videcak**

*Lakeshore Catholic School*

Brandee has devoted an extensive amount of time to her school and community. She is a committed individual who takes pride in all that she does- and she does a lot! She has been involved in Port Colborne Youth Basketball for many years, encouraging children to lead healthy lifestyles and teaching them about teamwork. She is also very dedicated to her church. Her involvement with St. Patrick's Church consists of altar serving for approximately 11 years, in addition to helping with many other events held at the parish. Brandee dedicates her time to the Terry Fox Run, the Running Run, the March for Life in Ottawa and is very involved with Project Ignites, raising awareness for abused women and the prevention of abuse. On top of everything, Brandee has maintained a 90%+ average academically and has been on honour roll every year of her high school career.



**Grace LaFortune**

*E.L. Crowley Secondary School*

Grace is an excellent student and an admirable role model to her fellow peers and those she helps in the community. Grace is heavily involved in the school community, being active on student council, the Vice President of the music council and dedicating time to the mental wellness project. She spends countless hours promoting music and ensuring the council runs smoothly, organizing all things music for the students council, and co-organizing the Coffee House Music Event at E.L. Crowley. In her community, Grace is very involved with her church, where she helps run the children's choir and volunteers for the monthly "messy" church, where children are invited to Guild Hall to learn about God through arts, crafts music and stories. Grace is a dependable young lady who brings enthusiasm and cheer to her community and school.



**Mae Lannan**

*Port Colborne High School*

Described by her teachers as an "All-star" citizen of Port Colborne, Mae is a hard working young lady, often working in the background to help her peers and ensure that events she is involved in are successful. She is a determined leader who works to inspire others through her actions. In her school, Mae dedicates her time to numerous extracurricular activities. She has received MVP and other accolades for her participation in basketball. She is a member of the school percussion group "Pulse". She is on the students' council committee, and maintains a high standing on the school honor roll each term. Mae is equally busy in her community, where she volunteers for Port Colborne Youth Basketball, dedicates time to Aspen Acres Farms as a lesson supervisor, and scores keeps for hockey at the Vale centre. Mae strives to set positive examples for others and believes that youth involvement furthers the wellbeing of the community.

*The President's Awards Gala is Proudly Presented by our Sponsors*



# Annual President's Awards Gala

## March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### WOMEN IN BUSINESS



**Monica Maier Root**  
Mentor's at 270 Degrees West

Monica strives to provide a boutique retail setting where shoppers can find personal service, quality products and affordable prices. Since taking ownership of Port Colborne Location, Monica's at 270 Degrees West has transformed West Street, and is now a well known shopping destination for modern attire women seeking well made and distinctive clothing. On top of running a popular boutique, Monica dedicates herself to the community through tutoring and organizing several charity events that raise money for the Walker Family Cancer Centre, Port Cares, RBC, the Nite event and United Way South Niagara, just to name a few!



**Tanya Birrell**  
The Healthy Cupboard

Tanya started out small, in a tiny space on Main Street, and grew her business to two prominent locations, serving the community with nutritional products and healthy living advice from experts. The Healthy Cupboard now employs 15 people, has a monthly newsletter, an award-winning website, and is home to various seminars and talks from healthy care professionals. Tanya is host of a weekly radio show, where she interviews a wide variety of speakers and promotes Port Colborne as a great place to shop and do business. Tanya has taken courses to expand her knowledge of natural, nutritional products in order to better serve her clients, and loves that every day is a new challenge and opportunity to grow.

**Mary-Beth Benner**

Marshville Chocolates

Growing up and with her mother working from home creating cakes and specialty chocolates, Mary-Beth has been in the business of making chocolate from a very young age. Her well-known Marshville establishment, which she owned when she was only 7 years old, has been in the family for almost 50 years. Marshville Chocolates is now owned and operated by Mary-Beth, who says that when peak season hits, it takes a lot of effort and team work to make all the orders. Her leadership and hands-on approach help to meet all the company goals, and provide customers with excellent service – and chocolate! Mary-Beth also supports her community through asking donors and fundraising to support the Open Arms Mission.

### NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### Concessi's Long Beach Market & Dinner

Marianne and Neville Kold made the investment to reopen this local landmark. With a commitment to keeping it local, they have been successful in providing employment opportunities, as well as a place for locals to get together in a family-friendly atmosphere. They source local goods not only for their shelves but also for the menu. As they prepare for their second summer season, they have added a beach volleyball court to provide an area for families and neighbors to enjoy themselves. With a very clear vision on how they will continue to grow, Concessi's will be part of the local landscape for years to come!



#### Modern Memory

Modern Memory is a unique business that provides archival services to individuals. It provides families with the opportunity to conserve, collect, and digitally archive family treasures. You can also verbally document your family history as well as create a memory book where memories are displayed. This is an innovative way of preserving a generation of knowledge.

#### Jay the Pie Guy



Jay Hink baked and sold 150 plus pies every week at the St. Catharines Market. When he was ready to open his own place he chose Port Colborne. Located on West Street, Jay offers meat pies, fruit pies, pot pies, as well as a soup of the day and all day breakfast. Fresh made veggie will be added to the menu shortly. With over 10 years of baking and cooking experience, Jay is focusing on fresh local ingredients to ensure consistently amazing food.



#### South Coast Garage Doors

South Coast Garage Doors is located off the shores of Lake Erie. With over 26 years of experience, owner Brian Henderson relocated to the area with a goal of servicing the unique needs of customers experiencing the extreme weather that can occur along the lake. The company sells, installs and services garage doors and operates for both commercial and residential customers, as well as lifestyle garage-door screens, and selling shutters.

#### La Dolce Vita Bakery



La Dolce Vita Bakery offers top quality, preservative free baked goods made from scratch by local certified pastry chef Anita Armentano-Nadai. The bakery features fresh baked bread, pies, cakes, cookies, scones, sweets and pastries on an order basis. Anita has been working out of a separate kitchen in her home, but her new commercial space will be open later this year.



#### The Saucy Pot

With over 20 years experience in the food business, husband and wife team Tyler and Christine Kiermeyer have opened a takeout restaurant that features delishious, freshly prepared food. Their menu changes daily and includes soups, meat pies, pot pies, quiches, cupcakes, sandwiches and pizza. Daily Vegetarian and gluten free options are also available. Located in the East Village, The Saucy Pot is the place to go for quick and tasty takeout.

### BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### Frank's Home Building Centre



Frank Denech started working in his dad's hardware store when he was 13 years old. He and his wife Kim purchased the store from his dad in 1981. Five years ago they underwent a major expansion, doubling their store. They have come a long way, having experienced tremendous growth with commercial, trade and residential customers. In addition to operating a successful business, Frank and Kim support numerous community initiatives.



#### Kingswood Historic Windows

Tucked away on a rural road in Watford, Kingswood Historic Windows manufactures architectural wood windows and doors, specializing in historic replication. Their highly skilled staff balance their skill set of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology. In the 10 years since their inception, the company has built an impressive client list. They have done work for St. Patrick's Cathedral, Columbia University, and the New York home of the Swedish ambassador to the United Nations, to name just a few.



#### Timberwood Custom Kitchens Inc.

Timberwood Custom Kitchens Inc. has been in the business of building top quality functional and beautiful kitchens since 1980. Owner and operator, Tim Vander Ende began building and designing kitchens at the age of 18. During apprenticeship, he excelled in the designing and building skills and honed his craftsmanship. Today Tim and his 13 staff work with clients to creatively design first a 3D image of the project, and then bring it to life!



#### Vale Canada Ltd.

Vale Canada Ltd. has been operating in Port Colborne since 1918. Although their products and processes have changed many times through the decades, their adaptability to meet the needs of business have ensured their long lasting history in Port Colborne. Still a major employer in the community, Vale strives to be a strong supporter of all things Port Colborne. In addition to supporting the United Way, Showboat Theatre, Port Cares, Canal Dogs and so much more, they are also the naming sponsor of the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. In the last 3 years they have added a new \$13 million processing facility, ensuring that they will continue with a strong presence for years to come.



#### The Clinic on Elm

Bia and Sherri Cousineau opened King Street Family Chiropractic in November 1998. Fifteen years later, they have grown their business to a full-time and several part time employees, and expanded their original location to The Clinic on Elm, almost 10 times the size. The new location opened in November of 2013, and shortly after they were given the opportunity to offer physiotherapy services to patients who qualify under OHIP. This dynamic duo are also involved in numerous community groups.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## 'Mane' event helps kids with cancer

FRANKI IKEMAN

Postmedia Network

Mary Vanscoy was inspired to chop off her locks after losing her sister to cancer last year.

"Going through the experience of watching my younger sister go through cancer and how it took everything from her not only her physical — she was a physically fit person — not only her looks but her dignity. It just rips everything from a human being," Vanscoy said.

The Niagara College School of Community Services professor said from there a small idea just took off, leading to last week's 'mane' event.

"The whole college was really supportive of me, it would be impossible for me to do this without Niagara College," Vanscoy said.

Last Friday, more than 200

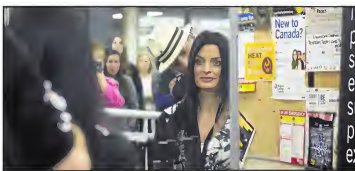
students and faculty lined up to get their hair cut to be donated to 360 Hair Wigs for Kids in British Columbia and Niagara-based Wigs for Kids. Last Thursday, a similar event drew more than 50 students and staff at the college's Niagara-on-the-lake campus.

"I can't cure cancer for them," Vanscoy said. "But I can at least give them back some of their dignity, help them look like the person that the little one sees them as."

Vanscoy sat in the chair, looking apprehensive as Niagara College hairstyling professor Pat Spano readied his scissors.

She said that anyone who knows her knows she loves her long hair.

"I'm happy because of where it's going. You know, I'd do it



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Mary Vanscoy prepares to have her hair cut to be made into a wig at the 'mane' event at Niagara College last Friday.

again. It's going to somebody who needs it a lot more than I do," Vanscoy said.

She said her long hair has

always been a big part of her identity.

"We're giving up a piece of our identity to hopefully help

somebody else have their identity that needs it more than us."

Spano and his team of students volunteered their time to

do the haircuts, free of charge.

"Our hairstyling program, which is among the best in Ontario, volunteered their time — the students and a professor and they are starting at 8 o'clock this morning and are working right through until 4:30, they're booked solid," said Dan Patterson, Niagara College president.

Patterson said the event was moving and really brought the college community together.

"Today is a very moving day where you see a small idea that grew into something very large," Patterson said. "Today many of our students have given and donated their hair for a very worthy cause which will develop wigs for kids with cancer and I think it's a really good example of how people in our community are trying to deal with helping out."

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**NATIONAL POST**

**THE TRIBUNE**



MIKE DINIARISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Police and fire officials were investigating an early morning fire last Thursday that destroyed part of the Jungle Putt and Freddie's Ice Cream property on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls.

## Fire destroys Falls mini putt building

**RAY SPITERI**  
Postmedia Network

Two Niagara Falls residents have been arrested and charged with arson in connection with a fire that caused more than \$900,000 damage to Freddie's Ice Cream and a miniature golf course on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls.

The fire was reported at about 5 a.m. on March 17, at the business which had not been operational within the last year.

When firefighters arrived on scene at the former Dairy Queen location they found a building on the property engulfed in flames.

Police and the Office of the Fire Marshal were called in to investigate because the cause of the fire appeared to be suspicious in nature.

Charged Monday with one count of break, enter and commit arson are Zachary Smith, 22, and Jeremy Dixon, 19. Police and fire officials investigated the incident initially deemed suspicious in nature.

Niagara Falls fire Chief Lee Smith said

firefighters found the back half of a building on the property engulfed in flames.

"Fire crews immediately began to get access to the interior of the building so they could find the (source of the) fire, and also to do a search and rescue to see if anyone was still in the building," said Smith.

"There weren't any people inside the building, so that was a good thing," he said. It took about 45 minutes for the fire to be brought under control.

Smith described the damage as "pretty substantial."

"The portion that housed the registration for the game and ... where you get your putt and all that, that part of it is pretty much gutted," he said.

The actual golf area was not destroyed, he added.

"The mini putt only operates in the good weather, so my understanding was that it wasn't operating on a daily basis at this point, yet."

Capt. Mark Goodman said one fire crew remained on scene last Thursday morning to assist the fire prevention office.

# Saks' Off 5th adds glitz to Outlet Collection

Niagara has gotten some retail glitz with last week's opening of Saks Fifth Avenue's Off 5th location. The store, at the Outlet Collection at Niagara in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is among three, first-ever locations in Canada.

About 50 jobs were created for the new outlet located inside the Taylor Road shopping complex.

Off 5th features a lineup of 800-plus designer brands from emerging designers to top fashion names.

Its offerings include an assortment of luxury designer fashions, footwear and accessories.

Other mainstays are designer fashion brands for women and men, a shoe and bag collection, jewelry and children's fashions.

"This represents a really exciting milestone for our company," said Jonathan Greller, president HBC Off-Price, describing its offerings as "a destination for true luxury, off-price shopping." "Our customers expect new (weekly) deliveries that are curated, edited assortments that have fashion, quality and value," he said. "We create the thrill of the hunt."

Greller said the stores north of the border are much like the American outlets, where there are 91 currently and another 19 to come by the end of the year there.

He said the chain will have its own buying team based in Canada, "which will be localizing the assortments for those stores."

"We are also leveraging our parent (Hudson's Bay) company," Greller said.

HBC also owns Saks Fifth Avenue department stores, which recently opened up in Toronto.

Aside from Niagara-on-the-Lake, other Off 5th stores are opening at Vaughan Mills and Hilton Hills.

The three Ontario locations are the first of nine to open in 2016, with up to 25 Off 5th outlets opening nationwide in the coming years.

The store website is [saksoff5th.com](http://saksoff5th.com)

\*\*\*

Two Port Dalhousie businessmen are set to open Mackie's Harbourfront Market at 28 Lakeport Rd. and The Alley Beach Bar & Grog House on Hogan's Alley.

Proprietors Jeff Mackie and Ben Goerzen describe themselves as having a passion for fine foods, and think Port will be served well with a local market, and a small patio bar and pub.

Mackie's Harbourfront Market will have gourmet local food offerings including fresh produce, sauces, condiments, coffee, bread, bagels, fine cheeses, cured meats and collections.

The Alley's indoor seating lounge will be above the market, with a patio located to the back at Hogan's Alley. It will showcase Ontario craft beer and wineries and cocktails, as well as live music.

Mackie and Goerzen are aiming for a mid-May opening for both St. Catharines businesses.

For more information, visit [www.mackies.ca](http://www.mackies.ca) and [www.thealleybar.ca](http://www.thealleybar.ca).

The Bizline column appears regularly. Send your north Niagara business story/information tips to [donfascia@postmedia.com](mailto:donfascia@postmedia.com) or tweet to @don\_standard.



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# LOCAL NEWS

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FRANK KHEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Welland Tigers hockey players line Main Street Bridge as they wait for the funeral procession for Dalton Jacques last Tuesday. The popular teammate died Friday following a 22-month battle with cancer.

## Teen's courage 'superhuman'

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

The strength that Dalton Jacques had shown throughout his battle with cancer exceeded mortal limits, said Rev Jim Mulligan.

"For a 15-year-old, his courage and bravery were superhuman," he said.

The pastor from St. Kevin church attributed Dalton's strength to his faith.

"His patience was remarkable — a clear sign of the presence of the spirit in his young life," Mulligan said.

Hundreds of people filled the Roman Catholic parish on Niagara Street to capacity last Tuesday, mourning the loss of the much-loved Welland teenager who died two weeks ago, nearly two years after being diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer.

"He really did fight the good fight. He finished the course and he kept the faith," Mulligan said.

Dalton was "not created to die of cancer at 15 years of age," Mulligan said during the eulogy.

"Dalton was created to do the chunk of work that God gave him to do at his birth. There was a special Dalton Jacques project that needed to be done. A large part of the Dalton Jacques project was to love and to be loved. He was created to make us all better lovers, that was Dalton's vocation, and he was faithful to it

right up to his last breath."

Members of Dalton's Welland Tigers hockey team dressed in their white jerseys and formed an honour guard for him while dozens of players from other Welland Minor Hockey teams lined the sidewalks of Main Street Bridge as the funeral procession passed.

Many of the congregation wore yellow bands on their left arms during the funeral mass — the colour Dalton chose a month earlier when the bridge was lit up in a show of support for his family.

Mulligan told the congregation that they gathered to give thanks "for the too short of time" they were given with Dalton, for the "amazing team of nurses and doctors" at McMaster Children's Hospital who cared for him throughout his illness, for the "extraordinary support" from the Welland community, and the encouragement "from the brotherhood made up of (Dalton's) teammates on the Welland Tigers."

"Our prayer is to knock on heaven's door, that God will receive Dalton with divine warmth and with a heavenly smile as massive as Dalton's everyday human smile," he said.

Mulligan lightened the mood among the mourners while asking for forgiveness for any of Dalton's foibles.

Continued on next page

## LOCAL NEWS

## Teen's courage 'superhuman'

## From previous page

"I don't know they were, but he was a hockey player and he was a defenceman at that, how many of those slashing and hooking and cross-checking penalties were simply accidental?" he said.

"And Dalton was a Pittsburgh fan. It could have been worse. He could have been a Montreal fan. Thank God Dalton was not a Leafs fan," added Mulligan as the congregation laughed quietly in response.

He said Dalton was a cretin, in his own way.

During his sickness, in dif-

ferent situations and needs he had during the past 22 months since he was diagnosed with cancer, "he created for Debbie said Norm, and for Shelby (his older sister), and for so many others, new depths of their love and compassion for him."

Mulligan said Dalton's family "had to go deeper and deeper into their own humanity" to understand the nature of what it is to be a mother, father and sister.

"His suffering created in every person who experienced it, new depths of love in their own hearts. Dalton, we

can say, created love in everyone who knew him, and knew of his sickness."

Dalton was interred at Holy

Cross Cemetery following the funeral mass.

His family has asked that donations be made in his

memory to Ronald McDonald House Charities Hamilton or Alivia's Rainbows, a charity that helps the families of chil-

dren fighting cancer.

ABenner@postmedia.com  
Twitter: @ABenner1

## DALTON JACQUES

He didn't allow his illness to prevent him from helping others.

The 15-year-old remained active during the final years of his life, working with friends and family to organize activities to help others.

As recently as December, Dalton teamed up with former Olympic boxer Mike Strange to run a toy drive for children at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, to help make Christmas as enjoyable as possible for children with life-threatening illness.

As a result of Dalton's help, the toy drive brought in nearly five times the donations compared to a year earlier. Many of those donations were collected during an exhibition hockey game at Welland Arena played Dec. 15.

On Feb. 17, hundreds of people gathered at Main Street Bridge as it was lit up in yellow to show their support for Dalton and his family.

Dalton died on March 11, with his parents at his side.

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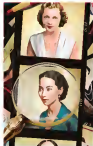
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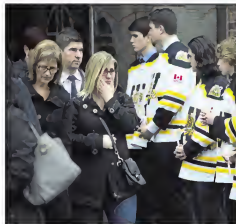
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FRANKIE ICKMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Friends and family leave St. Kevin Catholic church following the funeral for Dalton Jacques.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Soup comes with \$800 price tag

TONY RICCIUTO  
Postmedia Network

No soup for you, Raymond Kolochuk.

That's because a chicken soup mix that was purchased by the St. Catharines man and his wife while on vacation in Mexico two years ago never made it into Canada.

And while it has taken two years for a decision to be reached on this matter, it might not be over because there is yet another step in the appeal process.

Kolochuk paid about \$39 for the Knorr's Caldo de Pollo soup mix in 2014, but it could turn out to be the most expensive soup mix he has ever purchased.

Unless his case is reconsidered, Canada Border Services Agency says he owes a fine of \$800.

"I almost dropped the phone when I heard the amount of the fine," said Kolochuk. "This was such an innocent thing. I had no idea it was against the rules to import the soup mix and that's why I failed to declare it."

Years ago, a friend gave him a container of the soup mix, he liked it and that's why he purchased some to bring home.

According to documents



TONY RICCIUTO/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Raymond Kolochuk had no idea that some undeclared chicken soup mix from Mexico was going to cause him so much trouble. Canada Border Services Agency has fined him \$800.

from CBSA, Kolochuk committed a violation under Section 40 of the Health of Animals Regulations. That section prohibits people from "importing into Canada an animal byproduct, manure or a thing containing an animal byproduct."

When Kolochuk returned to Canada from his trip to Mexico, one piece of his luggage did not arrive at Toronto Pearson International Airport. The next day he received a phone

call and was told the luggage was held up at customs. He was told it was against regulations to bring the chicken soup mix into the country.

Kolochuk was told he could pay \$400 and it would be over with, or he could contest it, but if he lost the fine would then be \$800.

"I thought I had a good case of protesting it because I was totally unaware that this product was prohibitive," said Kolochuk. "This was not going out

to the public. It was going into our kitchen cupboard and used in a soup pot."

In addition to CBSA, the case involved the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and a hearing before the Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal.

A hearing was held in St. Catharines earlier this month, but Kolochuk was not able to attend to give his side of the story because he was away on vacation for the past three

months.

Kolochuk asked his neighbour to pick up his mail, which did contain registered letters advising him of the date for the hearing, but by the time he read those notices, the hearing had already been held.

It wasn't until Kolochuk received a call from a newspaper reporter asking about the decision that he heard about the hearing.

"I don't know why they made such a big issue out of

it. The soup mix was in a hard plastic container and it was not opened," said Kolochuk. "Maybe the officer was having a bad day. It's not like I was importing guns or drugs."

A spokesperson for CBSA said in an e-mail officials seized several containers of undeclared chicken soup mix in Kolochuk's luggage.

"Many travellers are unaware that all food products must be declared to CBSA officers. Certain food products can introduce harmful pests, viruses and diseases to Canada. When undeclared food products are found, they are seized and the traveller may have to pay a penalty."

Border officials advised that if a traveller is unsure whether a product is allowed, the item should be declared.

CBSA's administrative regulations on behalf of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as they apply to the border.

Kolochuk has inquired about appealing the tribunal's decision and was told it will cost \$50 to process the paperwork. He plans to file the necessary paperwork.

For more information about what food, plant, animal and related products that travellers can bring into Canada, visit the CFI's website at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca).

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